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*Reforming Washington  
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**FloorPrep**  
**Legislative Digest**

**Tuesday, June 20, 2000**

*The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour and  
10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 4201—Noncommercial Broadcasting Freedom of Expression Act of 2000**

**H.R. 4601—Debt Reduction Reconciliation Act of 2000**

**H.R. 3859—Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 2000**

**H.R. 2815—To Present a Congressional Gold Medal to Astronauts Neil A  
Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, the Crew of Apollo 11**

**H.R. 2938 —To Designate a Facility in South Bend, Indiana as  
the “John Brademas Post Office”**

**H.R. 4635—FY 2001 VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriation Act**



**Bills Considered Pursuant to a Rule**

**H.R. 4201 – Noncommercial Broadcasting Freedom of Expression Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 4201 as its first order of business today. Yesterday the Rules Committee met and granted a modified closed rule that provides for one hour of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Commerce Committee. The rule also makes in order that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Commerce Committee be adopted. Furthermore, the rule provides for the consideration of one amendment in the nature of a substitute if offered by Mr. Markey or his designee. The amendment will be considered as read, and debatable for one hour equally divided between the proponent and opponent of the amendment. Lastly, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 4201 amends the Communications Act of 1934 to allow a nonprofit group to obtain a noncommercial educational radio or television license if the station is used to broadcast material that the group determines serves an educational, instructional, cultural, or religious purpose (or any combination purposes), unless the determination is found to be arbitrary or unreasonable.

The measure also: (1) prohibits the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from imposing or enforcing any requirements on the licenses based on the number of hours of programming served under the license; (2) prohibits the FCC from imposing or enforcing any other programming content requirements that are not imposed on a commercial radio or television licensee; and (3) prohibits the FCC from establishing or modifying requirements concerning the service obligations of noncommercial educational radio or television station except by means of standard agency rulemaking.

Mr. Pickering introduced H.R. 4201 on April 6, 2000, and the Commerce Committee reported the measure by voice vote on May 17, 2000.

**Amendments:** One amendment was made in order by the rule:

**Mr. Markey** may offer an amendment requiring a license applicant to qualify as a nonprofit “educational” entity to obtain a license and if it broadcasts it must do so on the principle that broadcast material must serve an educational, instructional, cultural or educational religious purpose in the station’s community.



## **Bills Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House is scheduled to consider the following four bills under suspension of the rules following the consideration of H.R. 4201. They are debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and require a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 4601** authorizes that an amount equal to any increase in the FY2000 non-Social Security surplus be used to pay the public debt. This bill establishes an off-budget account in the U.S. Treasury, called the “Public Debt Reduction Payment Account”. If the non-Social Security surplus projected in *The Economic and Budget Outlook: An Update* is higher than specified in the Congressional budget resolution, the increased amount will be automatically appropriated to the account, and the statutory debt limit will be reduced by an equivalent amount. Funds in the account can be used only to reduce the debt held by the public.

Under the bill, thirty days after the end of FY 2000 and FY 2001 the Treasury must report to Congress the amount of money that was deposited in the account and how the money was used to reduce the public debt. This information must be verified by the U.S. Comptroller General of the United States. Current legislation dictates that money left over at the end of the year must be used to pay down the debt. This bill appropriates the excess funds into the “Public Debt Reduction Payment Account” to ensure that the money will not be used throughout the year for any other purpose. This account will remain available for the use of future years, but the appropriation to the account applies only to excess funds from FY 2000. The bill was introduced by Mr. Fletcher on June 8 and reported by the Committee on Ways and Means the same day by a vote 32-3.

**H.R. 3859** amends the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to protect the net surplus of any trust fund for

part A of Medicare or Social Security Trust Fund from being counted as a net surplus for the: (1) federal budget (submitted by the president), (2) congressional budget, or (3) Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act). The bill amends the Budget Act of 1974 to allow a point of order to protect Social Security surpluses in the House or in the Senate against any budget resolution, bill, joint resolution, conference report or amendment thereto whose enactment would cause or increase an on-budget deficit for any fiscal year. The bill makes an exception to this point for Social Security reform legislation.

The bill also makes it out of order in either body to consider any budget resolution, bill, joint resolution, conference report or amendment thereto whose enactment would cause an on-budget surplus for any fiscal year to be less than the projected surplus of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund (as assumed in the most recently agreed to budget resolution) for that fiscal year. This provision will not apply to Medicare reform legislation. The bill authorizes waiver or suspension in the Senate of points of order under this bill (the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 2000) only with a three-fifths majority.

Furthermore the bill provides that any statement issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Congressional Budget Office (CBO), or any other agency or instrument of the federal government will exclude the outlays and receipts of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program under Title II of the Social Security Act when issuing totals of surplus or deficit of the United States Government. The excluded outlays and receipts of these programs will be submitted in separate Social Security budget documents. Finally, the provisions of the bill apply to FY 2001 and subsequent fiscal years. The bill was introduced by Mr. Herger on March 8, 2000 and was not considered by a committee.

**H.R. 2815** authorizes the President to present, on behalf of the Congress, gold medals of appropriate design to astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, in recognition of their monumental and unprecedented feat of space exploration, as well as their achievements in the advancement of science and promotion of the space program. The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions. The bill was introduced by Mr. Rogan on September 8, 1999 and was not considered by a committee.

**H.R. 2938** designates the post office located at 424 South Michigan Street in South Bend, Indiana, as the John Brademas Post Office. Dr. John Brademas, President Emeritus of NYU, served for 22 years (1959-1981) as U.S. Representative in Congress from Indiana's Third District, the last four as House Majority Whip. In Congress, Dr. Brademas was a member of the Education and Labor Committee, the House Administration Committee, and the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress. He played a principal role in writing most Federal legislation concerning education, services for the elderly and handicapped, and support for libraries, museums, and the arts and humanities. Dr. Brademas has been awarded honorary degrees by 50 colleges and universities and has received numerous awards and titles from local, national, and international institutions and organizations. Introduced by Mr. Roemer on September 23, 1999 and has not been considered by a committee.



## H.R. 4635—FY 2001 VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act

**Floor Situation:** The House is scheduled to continue consideration of H.R. 4635 during the session today following completion of other pending legislative business.

The House passed H.Res. 525 on Thursday, June 15, which established an open rule on the measure that provides one hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee, waives points of order against non-emergency amendments from being offered to a bill containing emergency designations, and waives all points of order against unauthorized legislative provisions in a general appropriations bill, except for two provisions in Title III of the bill. The first unprotected provision prohibits EPA from reserving funds to conduct studies on the health effects of contaminants in drinking water. The second unprotected provision prohibits funds from being designated as emergency requirements unless the President submits an official budget request that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement.

The rule also allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority in recognizing members who have preprinted their amendments in the *Congressional Record*, and allows the chairman to postpone votes. Lastly, the rule allow for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

**Highlights.** H.R. 4635 provides \$101.1 billion in new budget authority for veterans' benefits, housing programs, and various agencies dealing mostly with science, space, and the environment. This amount is \$8.22 billion more than in FY 2000 and \$6.5 billion less than the president's request (which included a \$2.6 billion FY 2001 request for FEMA emergency spending and a \$4.2 billion advance appropriation request for FY 2001 for Section 8 housing). A majority of this funding, \$76.48 billion, is allocated for discretionary spending (\$6.5 billion less than the president's request and \$4.9 billion more than last year) programs, while the remaining \$24.61 billion is mandatory spending (outside of the control of the Appropriations Committee). The CBO "freeze" level for VA-HUD is \$76.9 billion.

A large portion of the bill's funding, \$46.85 billion, supports the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) efforts to provide extensive health, housing, education, and compensatory benefits to military veterans and their dependents (\$2.6 billion more than in FY 2000 and \$97.74 million less than the president's request). The measure appropriates \$29.96 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), \$4.1 billion more than in FY 2000 and \$2.5 billion less than the president's request (which includes an advance appropriation request of \$4.2 billion for FY 2002). Specifically, the bill provides \$13.28 billion for Section 8 housing rental assistance (\$2.4 billion more than last year), \$1 billion (a \$180 million decrease from last year) for homeless assistance, and \$4.5 billion for community development block grants.

H.R. 4635 also provides \$7.15 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency (\$312.77 million less than FY 2000 and \$15.1 million less than the president's request). The bill provides \$876.73 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a decrease of \$2.61 billion from the president's request and a \$2.48 billion decrease from last year's level.

In addition, the measure provides \$13.7 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—\$60.9 million more than in FY 2000 and \$321.7 million less than the president's request. Specifically, the bill provides \$5.5 billion for space shuttle operations, which includes funds for the International Space Station. Finally, the bill provides \$4.06 billion for the National Science Foundation,

\$152.25 million more than in FY 2000 and \$508.1 million less than the president's request.

**Amendments:** At press time *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments.

**Messrs. Collins and Linder** may offer an amendment (#1) to prohibit any funds from being used to designate new Clean Air Act nonattainment areas, in order to allow the Supreme Court to render its decision on new federal air quality standards prior to new designations. On May 14, 1999 the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that the EPA usurped Congress' legislative authority in promulgating strict new standards on air quality. The Supreme Court will hear the EPA's appeal this fall. **Staff Contact: Matt Ramsey (Collins), x5-5901, Ryan Van Meter (Linder), x5-4272**

**Messrs. Nadler, Shays, Crowley, and Horn** may offer an amendment (#2) that increases funding for Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) by \$18 million dollars, from \$232 million to \$250 million (\$10 million less than the administration's request and \$18 million above last year's level). To offset the increase the amendment would decrease the earmark for Polar and Antarctic research by \$18 million, to \$246.5 million. **Staff Contact: David Greengrass x5-5541**

**Mr. Nadler and Ms. DeGette** may offer an amendment (#3) that increases funding for Section 8 housing by \$690 million in order to provide funds for 120,000 new Section 8 vouchers matching the administration's request for 120,000 new vouchers. The amendment will decrease the \$2.1 billion allotted for the International Space Station by a corresponding \$690 million dollars. **Staff Contacts: John Doty (Nadler), x5-5635, Shannon Good (DeGette) x5-4431**

**Mr. Nadler and Ms. DeGette** may offer an amendment (#4) that increases funding for Section 8 housing in order to provide funds for 60,000 new Section 8 vouchers (the administration requested 120,000 new vouchers). The amendment would provide \$344 million by transferring \$344 million from the \$2.1 billion allotted for the International Space Station. **Staff Contacts: John Doty (Nadler) x5-5635, Shannon Good (DeGette) x5-4431**

**Mr. Ney** may offer an amendment (#5) that reduces the EPA's Environmental Management Programs budget by \$5.5 million (currently the budget is \$1.9 billion) and transfer it to the Veterans Health Administration Medical Care budget, resulting in a transfer of \$5 million and increasing their funding to \$20.8 billion. The amount transferred would not be \$5.5 million due to the fact that the Veterans Administration spends funds at a faster rate. The CBO scored the amendment as budget neutral. **Staff Contact: Maria Robinson, x5-6265**

**Messrs. Roemer and Ganske** may offer an amendment (#6) that will delete the \$2.1 billion dollars appropriated for the International Space Station (ISS). The amendment will provide the NSF with an additional: (1) \$405 million for research and related activities, (2) \$62 million for major research equipment, (3) \$34.7 million for education and human resources, and (4) \$5.9 million for salaries and expenses.

NASA will receive an additional: (1) \$290 million for the space launch initiative, (2) \$20 million for the Living With a Star initiative, (3) \$6 million for small aircraft and transportation systems, and (4) \$49 million for aviation systems capacity. While the VA would receive an additional: (1) \$10 million for medical research and prosthetics research, (2) \$10 million for minor projects construction, (3) \$30 million for grants for construction of state extended care facilities, and (4) \$56 million for departmental

administration general operating expenses. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

**Messers. Roemer and Sanford** may offer and amendment (#7) that requires the NASA Administrator to terminate all contracts and agreements with the Russian government necessary to remove the Russian Government as a partner in the ISS program. Also, the amendment prohibits NASA from entering into new partnerships with the Russian government regarding the ISS. The amendment does not prohibit NASA from accepting participation from Russian entities on a commercial basis or from purchasing elements of the ISS directly from Russian contractors. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

**Mr. Roemer** may offer an amendment (#8) that caps the total funding for the ISS at \$21.9 billion dollars, and caps space shuttle costs associated with assembly of the ISS at \$17.7 billion dollars. These limitations do not apply to funding for operations, research, space shuttle launch costs and crew return activities subsequent to substantial completion of the ISS, which is defined as development costs comprising less than 5 percent of total ISS costs for the fiscal year. The amendment allows for these caps to adjust with inflation or the lack of performance or termination of participation by and ISS participating country. Furthermore the amendment requires the NASA administrator to provide a written notice and analysis of any modifications in the cap amounts made under the bill's provisions for such changes, to the House Science and Appropriations Committees, as well as to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation and Appropriations Committees. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

**Mr. Trafficant** may offer and amendment (#9) that transfers \$35 million dollars from the Management and Expenses Account of HUD and transfer it to the HUD Community Development Fund in order to fund site acquisition, planning, architectural design, and construction of a convocation and community center in Youngstown Ohio. *Contact: x5-5261*

**Mr. Trafficant** may offer an amendment (#10) that transfers \$35 million from the HUD Salaries and Expenses account of the Management and Administration section to the Community Development Fund of the Community Planning and Development Section. *Contact: x5-5261*

**Mr. Andrews** may offer an amendment (#11) that transfers \$25 million dollars from HUD administrative expenses to the EPA Safe Drinking Water fund. This would increase the total amount for the Safe Drinking Water Fund from \$825 million to \$850 million dollars. In FY 2000 \$885 million was provided for the fund. *Contact: x5-6501*

**Mr. Andrews** may offer and amendment (#12) that transfers \$60 million dollars from HUD administrative expenses to the EPA Safe Drinking Water fund. This would increase the total amount for the Safe Drinking Water Fund from \$825 million to \$885 million dollars, matching the FY 2000 level. *Contact x5-6501*

**Mr. Bilirakis** may offer and amendment (#13) that establishes and office of The Environmental Protection Agency National Hazardous waste and Superfund Ombudsman. The function of this office will be to (1) assist citizens in resolving problems with the EPA, (2) identify areas where citizens are having problems dealing with the EPA, (3) propose administrative changes within the EPA to mitigate such problems, (4) identify potential legislative changes to mitigate such problems, and (5) conduct investigations, findings of fact, and make non-binding recommendations.

In order to carry out these responsibilities the Ombudsman will have the power to: (1) investigate any

act of the Environmental protection agency, upon complaint or his own motion, without regard to its finality; (2) adopt rules necessary for the execution of duties, including procedures for receiving and processing complaints, conducting investigations, and reporting filing consistent with the U.S. Ombudsman Association Model Act for establishing an Ombudsman; (3) examine records and documents and inspect, without notice, the premises of the EPA and related authorities (4) issue subpoenas to any person to appear and give sworn testimony or to produce evidence related to an Ombudsman investigation; (5) conduct conferences, studies, or hearings necessary to an Ombudsman investigation or which may lead to improvements in the EPA or related agencies; (6) keep the identities and communications of people or witnesses coming before the Ombudsman confidential; (7) request an independent counsel from the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, the appropriate U.S. Attorney or otherwise to enforce the provisions of Ombudsman's office; and (8) administer a budget for the Office of Environmental Protection Agency National Hazardous Waste and Superfund Ombudsman.

In addition the Ombudsman will be required to issue annual reports on the status concerns brought to the Ombudsman to the House Commerce Committee, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committees and the President. The amendment makes \$2 million available within the general funds of the EPA for FY 2001 to fund the office and makes a severability provision where if any part of the Amendment is found invalid all others will remain in force. *Staff Contact: Sarah Owen, x5-5755*

**Mr. Bilirakis** may offer an amendment (#14) that provides that \$2 million dollars of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund account will be made available to fund the National Hazardous Waste and Superfund Ombudsman. *Staff Contact: Sarah Owen, x5-5755*

**Mr. DeFazio** may offer an amendment (#15) that prohibits HUD funds, including economic development programs, Community Development Block Grants, Economic Development Initiative Block Grants, and Section 108 Loan Guarantees from being used to provide financial assistance to construct, operate, or otherwise benefit shops that engage solely in the sale of tobacco. *Staff Contact: Lisa Bart, x5-6416*

**Mr. DeFazio** may offer an amendment (#16) that increases funding for VA medical and prosthetic research by \$16 million, to a total of \$337 million, while reducing funds for the selective service system by \$16 million, from \$23 to \$7 million. *Staff Contact: Tom Vinson, x5-6416*

**Mr. DeFazio** may offer an amendment (#17) that reduces funding for the Selective Service System by \$16 million, from \$23 million to \$7 million. *Staff Contact: Tom Vinson, x5-6416*

**Messers. Filner and Rodriguez** may offer an amendment (#18) that increases VA funds for construction of state extended care facilities by \$80 million to \$140 million, consistent with the request to the Budget Committee made by the Veterans Affairs Committee. This year the administration requested, and the Appropriates Committee approved \$60 million. Last year \$90 was appropriated for extended care facilities. The amendment includes a provision that the funds be designated as an emergency requirement, and that the funds will be available only to the extent that the specific amount is requested with the emergency requirement designation by the president. *Contact: x5-8045*

**Mr. Filner** may offer an amendment (#19) that adds \$25 million for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Benefits account. It also includes a provision that the funds be designated as an emergency requirement, and that the funds will be available only to the extent that the specific amount is requested



with the emergency requirement designation by the president. *Contact: x5-8045*

**Mr. Filner** may offer an amendment (#20) that provides \$35.2 million dollars to fund VA health care benefits for Filipino nationals who fought for the United States in World War II. The Rescissions Acts of 1946 excluded Filipino veterans from receiving VA benefits. The \$35.2 million dollars was the amount estimated necessary to fully fund benefits for these veterans. The amendment includes a provision that the funds be designated as an emergency requirement, and that the funds will be available only to the extent that the specific amount is requested with the emergency requirement designation by the president. *Contact: x5-8045*

**Mr. Hinchey** may offer an amendment (#22) that increases the amount made available for the Federal Housing Enterprise Financial Safety Soundness Act by \$4.77 million to \$26.77 million. *Contact: x5-6335*

**Mr. Hinchey** may offer an amendment (#23) may offer an amendment prohibiting funds in the bill from being used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement or administer the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) system. VERA was established to provide medical care funding to regions across the country (with growing veteran populations) in a more equitable fashion. The system was created in response to findings indicating that the veteran population is shifting to different parts of the country but health care dollars are not. The VA's plan employs an allocation formula that ties funding for each of the 22 geographic regions to the numbers of veterans they actually serve. Proponents of the amendment contend that the VERA model does not provide adequate resources for aging veterans who remain in the Northeast and Midwest (where the veteran population is decreasing) and have subsequently resulted in a decrease in both the quantity and quality of health care services in those areas. *Contact: x5-6335*

**Mr. Hostettler** may offer an amendment (#24) that adds a section to the bill prohibiting any funds from being used to administer the Communities for Safer Guns Coalition. The bill has not appropriated any funds for the program in FY 2001. *Contact: x5-4636*

**Mr. Hostettler** may offer and amendment (#25) that adds a section to the bill that prevents any funds in the bill from being used to enforce, implement, or administer the provisions of the March 17, 2000 settlement between the gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson and HUD. *Contact: x5-4636*

**Mr. Evans** may offer and amendment (#27) that adds: (1) \$25 million to the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research account (the bill currently appropriates \$321 million), (2) \$14 million for VA operating expenses (the measure provides \$1 billion), (3) \$3 million more for the National Cemetery Administration (the bill provides \$106 million), (4) \$62 million for VA minor building projects (the bill appropriates \$100 million), (5) \$80 million for construction of state extended care facilities (more than doubling the bill's level of \$60 million). To offset these increases the bill would decrease NASA's Human Space Flight Account by \$184 million from its current level of \$5.5 billion. *Contact: x5-5905*

**Mr. Gutierrez** may offer an amendment (#28) that adds \$25 million to the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research account (the bill appropriates \$321 million) and reduce the NASA Human Space Flight account by \$25 million (the bill provides \$5.5 billion). *Contact: x5-8203*

**Mr. Gutierrez** may offer an amendment (#29) that adds \$25 million to the VA Medical and Prosthetic



Research account (the bill appropriates \$321 million) and reduce the NASA Science, Aeronautics and Technology account by \$25 million (the bill provides this account with \$5.6 billion). **Contact: x5-8203**

**Mr. Ney** may offer an amendment (#30) that increases funding for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research account by \$5 million (the bill appropriates \$321 million) and reduce funding for EPA environmental programs and management by \$5 million (the bill appropriates \$1.9 billion). **Staff Contact: Maria Robinson, x5-6265**

**Mr. Pascrell** may offer an amendment (#31) that reduces the VA Departmental Administration General Operating Expenses by \$100,000 and subsequently increase the same account by \$100,000. **Contact: x5-5751**

**Mr. Baker** may offer an amendment (#32) that increases the VA funding for the State Extended Care Facilities Construction Grant Program by \$30 million to \$90 million, while reducing the Public and Indian Housing Certificate Fund by \$30 million to offset the increase. **Staff Contact: Gretchen Lindquist, x5-3901**

**Mr. Cummings** may offer an amendment (#33) that increases the NASA Science, Aeronautics and Technology account by \$2.8 million from its current \$5.6 billion, while reducing the NASA Human Space Flight account by \$2.8 million from its current \$5.5 billion. **Contact: x5-4741**

**Mr. Green (TX)** may offer an amendment (#34) that adds a section to Title IV, General Provisions, that prohibits any funds provided in the bill from being used by the EPA to issue, implement, or enforce any regulatory program (including reporting requirements) applicable to pipeline facilities for the transportation of hazardous liquids subject to regulations issued by the Transportation Department's Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs. **Contact: x5-1688**

**Mr. Hinchey** may offer an amendment (#35) that adds a section to Title IV, General Provisions, that removes language in the bill that prohibits the EPA from (1) using dredging or other invasive sediment remediation technologies, (2) enforcing drinking water standards for arsenic, and (3) promulgating a drinking water standard for radon. **Contact: x5-6335**

**Ms. Meek** may offer an amendment (#36) that adds two provisions to the HUD Community Planning and Development program. The first provides \$150 million for grants in connection with a second round of the empowerment zones program in urban areas designated by the Housing Secretary in FY 1999. This amount includes \$10 million for each empowerment zone to remain available until expended. Neither the president's request nor the measure contain new budget authority for either urban empowerment zones. Last year in an agreement reached with the administration \$55 million was provided for urban empowerment zones.

The second provides \$15 million for grants in connection with a second round of the empowerment zones program in urban areas designated by the Agriculture, to remain available until expended. Neither the president's request nor the measure contain new budget authority for either urban empowerment zones. Last year in an agreement reached with the administration \$15 million was provided for urban empowerment zones. **Contact: x5-4506**

**Ms. Meek** may offer an amendment (#37) that adds \$395 million to the \$4.5 billion provided in the

HUD Community Development Fund. *Contact: x5-4506*

**Mr. Mollohan** may offer an amendment (#38) that provides \$593 million for Section 8 incremental vouchers to remain available until expended, provided that \$66 million of that amount is available for use in a housing production program in connection with the low-income housing tax credit program to assist very low-income and extremely low-income families.

The amendment also provides: (1) an additional \$200 million to the \$2.8 billion appropriated for the Public Housing Capital Fund, (2) an additional \$127 million to the \$3.14 billion provided for the Public Housing Operating Fund, (3) an addition \$30 million to the \$620 million appropriated for Native American Housing Block Grants, (4) \$395 million in increased funding for the \$4.5 billion provided to the Community Development Fund, (5) \$215 in increased funding to the \$1.59 billion provided to the Home Investment Partnership Program, (6) for an increase of \$5 million to the \$15 million set aside from Home Investment Partnership Program funds, for Housing Counseling, and (7) an additional \$80 million to the \$1.02 billion appropriated for Homeless Assistance Grants.

The amendment also adds \$37 million for guaranteeing loans under the American Private Investment Companies (APICs) Program, with no more than \$1 million of that amount being used for administrative expenses necessary to carry the program out. The amendment establishes a total limit for guaranteed loans at \$1 billion. H.R. 4635 provides no new budget authority—\$37 million less than the president's request and \$20 million less than last year—for APICs to encourage equity investment in large-scale development projects in economically impoverished communities.

Lastly the amendment adds an additional \$114 million to the \$911 million appropriated for HUD housing for Special Populations. Of this increase \$90 million will go to housing for the elderly while \$24 million will go to housing for the disabled. *Contact: x5-4172*

**Mr. Mollohan** may offer an amendment (#39) that increases funding for NASA Science, Aeronautics and Technology by \$322.7 million (the bill provides \$5.6 billion). *Contact: x5-4172*

**Mr. Ney** may offer an amendment (#40) that increases the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research account by \$5 million (the bill appropriates \$321 million) while decreasing the EPA Environmental Programs and Management account by \$5 million (the bill appropriates \$1.9 billion). *Staff Contact: Maria Robinson, x5-6265*

**Mr. Scott** may offer an amendment (#41) that adds a general provision to the bill that Expresses the Sense of the House that the FY 2001 VA-HUD bill should not result in funding for NASA aeronautic research programs that is less than the level requested in the president's FY 2001 budget. *Contact: x5-8351*

**Mr. Smith (MI)** may offer an amendment (#42) that reduces funding for HUD Community Development Fund (CDF) by \$20 million (the bill provides \$4.5 billion) and provides that this reduction will come from the Community Development Block Grants Program (the bill allotted \$4.2 billion to the program) under the CDF. The amendment correspondingly increases the NSF Research and Related Activities account by \$20 million, for acquisition, maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of services for research support (the account was provided with \$3.1 billion in the bill). *Contact: x5-6276*

**Mr. Smith (MI)** may offer an amendment (#43) that reduces the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences funding by \$10 million from the \$60 million it was appropriated. The amendment correspondingly increases the NSF Research and Related Activities account by \$10 million for acquisition, maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of services for research support (the account was provided with \$3.1 billion in the bill). **Contact: x5-6276**

**Messrs. Tancredo, Weller, Johns, Ryan, and Hilleary** may offer an amendment increasing by \$30 million the amount allocated to the State Extended Care Facilities Construction Grant Program, restoring the program to its FY 2000 level of \$90 million. The amendment would offset the increase by reducing the HUD Management and Administration, Salaries and Expenses account by \$30 million to \$974.38 million. **Staff Contact: Matt Knoedler (Tancredo) x5-7882, or Ben Fallon (Weller) x5-3635**

**Mr. Stearns** may offer an amendment increasing funding for the State Extended Care Facilities Construction Grant Program by \$40 million (currently the bill provides \$60 million) and reduces funding for the National Community Reinvestment Corporation by \$40 million to \$50 million. **Staff Contact: Veronica Crowe, x5-5744**

**Mr. Obey** may offer an amendment that will (1) increase HUD's Housing Opportunities for People With Aids (HOPWA) funds by \$9 million, (2) increase HUD homeless assistance grants funding by \$20 million, (3) increase funds for capital advances in housing for the elderly, under HUD's Housing for Special Populations program, by \$69 million, (4) increase funds for capital advances in housing for the disables, under HUD's Housing for Special Populations program, by \$9 million, (5) offsets the increased funding by add a section to the HUD Administrative Provisions which will amend the National Housing Act using provisions taken from H.R. 1776, which passed the House on April 6, 2000. The amendment takes several sections from H.R. 1776 that include: (1) permanent down payment Simplification (the CBO estimates that this will cost \$7 million dollars), (2) reduced down payment requirements for teachers and uniformed municipal employees (estimated by the CBO to save \$24 million), and (3) hybrid adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) (CBO estimates that this will save \$90 million dollars). The total savings from the offsetting portion of the amendment will be \$107 million dollars, however the amendment includes authorizing language that makes it subject to a point of order since it is being offered to an appropriations bill. **Staff Contact: William Painter, x5-3365**

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #17, June 16, 2000.



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